New-York Daily Times.

VOL. IV....NO. 1,004. NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1854. PRICE TWO CENTS.

least twenty-five hundred. The number of the marine corps is deemed entirely too small, and an indefinitely stated increase is earnestly recommended. The corps would be improved and elevated in character by adopting some system of appointing officers of military education and training.

A marine basin and Railway at the San Francisco Navy-Yard is recommended.

It is proposed to substitute a steamer for the *Preble*, now used as the practice ship for the instruction of the students at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

Prof. MAURY's achievements in developing his theory of winds and currents, and his preparation of charts are noticed most flatteringly. It is estimated that the saving to our commerce by the use of his charts would amount to several millions per annum.

ROBERT L. STEVENS' iron war steamer, shot and shell proof, for harbor defence, is rapidly progressing. The boilers will be ready to put on board in about three weeks.

Report of the Secretary of War.

The actual strength of the Army is only ten thousand seven hundred and forty-five. The whole authorized strength is fourteen thousand two hundred and sixteen. The deficiency is fast decreasing by more rapid enlistments. A statement of the changes made in the distribution of the army during last year, is made.

The removal from Florida of the remnant of the Seminoles, has received the attention of the Department, but its efforts have not been very successful. Better fortune is expected next year, through the instrumentality of the new plan of operations. The Indian difficulties elsewhere are alluded to. The massacre of Lieut. GRATTON and men by the Sioux is narrated, and the fact stated, that the army force is quite inadequate to the protection of our frontier and to punish Indian aggressions. Our entire loss in Indian actions during the year is four officers and sixty-three men killed, and four officers and forty-two men wounded. The occurrences on the frontier furnish deplorable proofs of the insufficiency of our military force, and of the absolute necessity for its increase, which was urged by the Secretary last year. Our effective force does not exceed eleven thousand men, which is entirely inadequate for the purposes for which we maintain a standing army. Its immediate increase is urged, at a cost sufficient to give some degree of security to the Indian frontiers, for which purpose the regular force is the most efficient, cheap, proper and constitutional means. The increased pay to enlisted men, induced the enlistment of 1,000 men in October and September last, against 300 men during the corresponding months last year. The number of recruits required for the service of the ensuing year will probably not be less than 6,000. He recommends the use of camels and dromedaries for military purposes again, and asks an appropriation to test their usefulness. An increased pay for officers is urged as an act of justice and necessity. Additional legislation is asked to place the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers of the army on an equality with the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers of the navy. The necessity of a revision of our military legislation in some important particulars is pointed out, in order to prevent conflicting claims in regard to rank and command, which now give rise to much inconvenience and trouble. One great source of difficulty is the double rank recognized by our laws; to remedy this it is proposed to give effect to brevet rank only when the President may so fix, and forbid the exercise of brevet commissions in the regiment, troop, or company where officers are mustered. Elaborate suggestions for reorganization of the staff corps are presented, and compared with European systems. It is proposed that there be nine Brigadier-Generals; one for each Department; one for Quartermaster-General, one for Adjutant-General, and two for Inspectors-General; being an addition of three to those who now, by Brevet or otherwise, have rank and command as Brigadier-Generals. Other marked changes in staff appointments, rank and duty are proposed.

Reforms in the organization of regiments are also suggested. The expediency of general promotions by seniority instead of merit is doubted by the Secretary; and the establishment of a retired list again urged. Professorships of Ethics and of English studies at the Military Academy are recommended.

Many other subjects are treated of at considerable length.

The Postmaster General's Report.

The Postmaster General, in his report, recommends the passage of a law authorizing the establishment of a system of registration of all valuable letters, at the option of the correspondents—five cents additional postage being charged for registration, and all registered letters to be made up under a special Post-bill, and sent under a special envelope to the Postmasters. A system of checks and accounts is also suggested, in order the more readily to ascertain when valuable letters are missing, and to give an easier clue to mail robberies.

The Postmaster compliments the Collins line of steamers highly, and thinks the original allowance made to it by the Government was too low, but that the present pay is too high. He does not, however, recommend any decided course with reference thereto. He thinks the California mail steamers' service costs too much, and suggests that unless contractors will give weekly service for the present contract price, the Government had better exercise their right and abrogate the contract by a purchase of the Company's ships.

For other Public Documents see Eighth Page.

The Soule Correspondence.

The following is the correspondence, official, which was occasioned by the supposed refusal of the French Government to let Mr. SOULE pass through France on his way to Madrid:

Minister Mason to Secretary Marcy.

No. 37.] LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, Oct. 20, 1854.

SIR: An incident of very grave import has transpired. In my No. 36, I communicated the intelligence that Mr. SOULE, United States Minister to Spain, had been prohibited, by alleged orders of the Emperor's Government, from entering France.

That I might, without delay, ascertain the facts of this extraordinary and unusual proceeding, I sent Mr. PIATT, Secretary of this Legation, to Dover to communicate with Mr. SOULE. He left Paris in the evening of the 16th, and on his arrival, finding that Mr. SOULE had left Dover, he proceeded to London, where he had an interview with that gentleman. The order forbidding his entering France was wholly unknown to Mr. SOULE, and he assures me that neither by deed nor by words, uttered or written, had he offended a shadow of excuse for the wanton measure which, in violation of the rights of a citizen of the North American Republic and of his privileges as one of its accredited Ministers, has interdicted to him a passage through France on his way back to Madrid. I met Mr. PIATT after the return of Mr. PIATT, in addressing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, under date of the 18th inst., a communication of which I send you a copy. It was sent to the Foreign Office on the 20th, and I have not yet received an answer.

It is impossible not to regard this humiliating indignity as deeply injurious, when it is remembered that Mr. SOULE, acting under your orders, has recently spent more than two weeks in Paris; and while sojourning here, neither he nor I received any intimation that his presence was objected to by the French Government.

Being to adequate cause to justify an unfriendly feeling towards the United States, I cannot but hope that the French Government, finding that it has acted on erroneous information, will at once redress this glorious wrong.

If in this I am disappointed, earnest as I have been since I have represented our country at this Court, to cultivate the most cordial relations of amity between the two countries, I must consider this instance of such grave importance that it is not impossible I shall regard it to be my duty to discontinue my mission by demanding my passports. I will not lose a moment in keeping you advised of the reply to my note, and of the progress of events in connexion with this most extraordinary affair.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed,) J. Y. MASON.

Minister Mason to Drouyn de l'Huys.

LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, 27th October, 1854.

MR. DROUYN DE L'HUYS, *Minister Foreign Affairs*—SIR: I have received information that on the 24th inst. Mr. SOULE, on his arrival at Calais from the shores of England, was notified by a police officer that orders had been given by the Imperial Government that he should not be permitted to enter France, and that by those orders he was compelled to return to England, where he now remains. Mr. SOULE is a citizen of the United States, accredited as an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from his country to the Court of Spain. He had, in executing the orders of his Government, visited Paris and London, and was returning to his post at Madrid by the most usual and convenient route through the territories of France, when he was thus arrested in his journey. He had received no notice of the determination of the Emperor's Government to deny him a privilege awarded by all nations to citizens or subjects of friendly powers traveling under their protection; and especially those who are clothed with the sacred character of public Ministers—for he was actually arrested in his journey some hours before I received the intimations in regard to him, which you did me the honor to give me in the afternoon of the 24th inst. If authorized by the Emperor's Government, it cannot but be regarded by the Government and people of the United States, not only as a most unusual and humiliating act, towards the Minister personally, but as a national indignity of very grave character, only to be exhausted by facts established by conclusive proof. Without waiting for special instructions to that effect, I regard it as my imperative duty to hasten to ask for what reasons one of my fellow-citizens, chosen by my country as a representative to a Foreign Power, has been so treated, while the ties of amity and peace exist and are cherished by the United States with France. My Government will be filled with painful anxiety until satisfactory information in reply to this inquiry can be communicated. I cannot but hope that your Excellency will furnish me with such explanations as may relieve the Minister from the position in which he has thus been placed, and which will enable me to allay the unpleasant feelings which the intelligence of this occurrence will occasion in the United States.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your Excellency the assurances of the high consideration with which I am your humble and obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

M. Drouyn De l'Huys to Mr. Mason.

[TRANSLATION.]

PARIS, Nov. 1, 1854.

SIR: I have received the letter you did me the honor to write me, under date of the 27th of the last month, in which you ask me for some explanations as to the motives of the determination taken with regard to Mr SOULE. I must, in the first place, state the manner in which things have occurred.

The Minister of the Interior had to give directions that Mr. SOULE should not be allowed to penetrate into France without the knowledge of the Government of the Emperor. The instructions of Mr. BILLAULT were strictly followed, and carried out with the utmost propriety by the Commissary of the Police at Calais. Accordingly that functionary did not invite Mr. SOULE to embark again for England—he left him perfectly free to remain at Calais until he should receive orders from Paris, which he was about to request. It was simply a question of waiting patiently for one day at the utmost; but Mr. SOULE, after saying that he did not expect any regard on the part of the French Government, and that besides he did not care for it, preferred to go back to England immediately. The Minister of the Interior did, nevertheless, forward his definitive instructions to Calais by Telegraph, and I can do nothing better than to transcribe them here.

"If Mr. SOULE presents himself for the purpose of entering France, you will give him to understand that the Emperor's Government does not authorize him to sojourn there, but that it makes no opposition to his passing through in order to go to Spain; and you will offer him to visa his passport for that destination."

You perceive, Sir, that the Government of the Emperor has not sought, as you seem to believe, to prevent an Envoy of the United States from traversing French territory in order to repair to his post; and acquit himself of the commission with which he was charged by his Government; but between that simple passage and the stay of a foreigner whose antecedents (I regret to say it) have awakened the attention of the authorities whose duty it is to preserve public order among us, there is a difference which the Minister of the Interior was bound to appreciate. If Mr. SOULE had been going directly to Madrid, the route by France was open to him. If it was his intention to come to Paris, with a view to remaining here, that privilege was not accorded him. It was, therefore, necessary to consult him as to his intentions, and it was himself who would not allow time to do so. Our laws are strict with respect to foreigners. The Ministers of the Interior cannot their rigorous provisions to be executed, when it is shown him that there is any necessity for such action—and even then he makes use of discretionary power which the Government of the Emperor has never allowed to be discussed. The quality of foreigner on the part of Mr. SOULE placed him within the scope of the measure of which he was the object,—all that remained was to reconcile this measure with the public character with which he was invested.

You will acknowledge, Sir, that this is what we have done, and that the Government of the United States, with which Government His Majesty the Emperor has at heart to cultivate the relations of friendship and esteem, has in nowise been assailed in the person of one of its representatives.

The Minister of the United States to Spain is free, I repeat it, to pass through France. Mr. SOULE, who has no mission to fulfill near the Emperor, and who conformably with the doctrine sanctioned by the law of nations, would need, on account of his origin, a special agreement to enable him to represent, in his native land, the country of his adoption—Mr. SOULE, as a simple private individual, comes within the pale of a the common law which has been applied to him, and he cannot lay claim to any privilege.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of high consideration with which I have the honor to remain your very humble and obedient servant.

DROUYN DE LHUYS.

Mr. MASON, United States Minister.

Mr. Mason to Secretary Marcy.

LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, Nov. 11, 1854.

No. 41.]

SIR: In my dispatch No. 37 I informed you of communications of Calais, by which Mr. SOULE was interrogated in the prosecution of his journey to Spain; and with that dispatch I sent you a copy of my letter to M. DROUYN DE L'HUYS, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of 27th of October last. On the 1st of November I received from his Excellency a note in reply to mine of that date. I send the original, containing a copy for the files of the Legation.

Until the receipt of this note, I had understood the prohibition of Mr. SOULE entering France to be unqualified; and such, too, was the understanding of that gentleman. For, by reason of its exactions, he had to return to England.

On the 6th instant I addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs a communication, of which I send you herewith a copy. I have received no reply, and presume that it will constitute a correspondence which I deem it to be my duty to open, without waiting for special instructions from the President. The result, I am happy to say, is that no impediment exists to the passage of the American Minister, accredited to the Spanish Government, through France, to the place of official duty. This is recognized, beyond doubt, a principle of the law of nations, interesting to every country, because its denial would seriously embarrass the maintenance of diplomatic missions, whose influence in promoting peace and preserving good relations in the family of nations is universally acknowledged.

I communicated to Mr. SOULE, at London, my correspondence with the Emperor's Government: and on the morning of the 9th instant he arrived in Paris, and left on the 11th for Bordeaux, where he expects to find the United States sloop-of-war *San Jacinto*, in which he will take passage for Spain.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY, Secretary of State.

Mr. Mason to M. Drouyn de l'Huys.

LEGATION UNITED STATES, PARIS, Nov. 6, 1854.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 1st of November, in reply to mine of the 27th of October ult. I have carefully examined your narrative of circumstances which led to the event and gave occasion for this correspondence. It is quite manifest that the order under which the Commissary of Police at Calais acted, when he interdicted Mr. SOULE's entrance into France, did not present to the American Minister any alternative but to return to England, or remain in Calais, virtually under duress until the further orders of the Emperor's Government could be received. I think your Excellency will concur in the opinion that he could not, consistently with the dignity of his Government, remain on the frontier of France—there situated, awaiting orders which he had no reason to believe would be more favorable than the one which denied him entrance upon French territory. I cannot, therefore, but deeply regret that the precise telegraphic order which your Excellency has incorporated in your letter to me, did not precede Mr. SOULE's arrival at Calais. That order, I am pleased to find, removes all impediment to the free passage of the American Minister accredited to the Court of Spain, through the territory of France. I have not failed to observe the declaration that Mr. SOULE's residence in France will not be authorized by the Emperor's Government. As his public duties require him to reside in Spain, he has no intention, so far as I am informed, of remaining or residing in France. I therefore forbear entering into any examination of the reasons suggested for the determination to deny him the privilege, or of the manner in which he has been notified of the purport of the Imperial Government.

I have observed since the distinction which your Excellency makes between individuals and Ministers.

Without undertaking to inquire how far such distinction can be maintained—for it is not necessary to the occasion to guard myself against being misunderstood if I pass it in silence—I must say, that in my opinion, one who is a public Minister, passing through the territory of a friendly nation to the Court to which he is accredited, has privileges under the unison sanction of the law of nations, about which, if it shall become necessary to discuss them, I feel assured that I will not have the misfortune to find conflicting views held by one so enlightened as your Excellency. I have much satisfaction in receiving the assurance, given in the emphatic declaration of your Excellency, that the Minister of the United States to Spain is at liberty to traverse France towards his post, and obeying the consideration with which he is charged by his Government. The recognition of this right is all that I have to ask of the Emperor's Government in the premises, and on this, as on all other occasions, I receive with pleasure the assurance that the Government of his Imperial Majesty has at heart relations of friendship and esteem with the Government of the United States. Feeling which, it is my constant desire and effort to cherish and strengthen them.

I will hasten to communicate this correspondence to my Government, and will also inform the American Minister to Spain, who is still in London, of the result which has been arrived at.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to your Excellency assurance of the very high consideration with which I am your obedient, humble servant,

J. Y. MASON.

CONGRESS.

Mr. Bright Elected President of the Senate.

Standing Committees of last Session Continued.

THE CONFERENCE AT OSTEND.

INTERESTING DEBATE.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—Second Session.

SENATE.... WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Senate was called to order by the Secretary at 12½ o'clock.

Mr. JOHNS, of Iowa, offered a resolution that the Senate proceed forthwith to the election of a President *pro tempore*.

Mr. SEWARD said he would like to know the effect of this election, whether it was a temporary or a permanent appointment. He was satisfied in his own mind, there could be but one President *pro tempore* of the Senate at one time. That officer was of course to hold it till his term constitutionally terminated. If the President of the United States died, the President of the Senate would succeed to that high office. Certainly then there ought to be but one person holding that office.

Mr. BAYARD said the question was merely one of choosing a presiding officer, and to proceed to business. At present the Senate had nothing to do with possible events or suppositious cases.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. WELLER asked if he could not offer a resolution declaring a certain Senator President *pro tempore*. Could it not be done by unanimous consent?

Mr. MASON said Mr. ATCHISON had been so elected.

Mr. SUMNER said he must insist on a vote, therefore he should object to the resolution.

The Senate then balloted with the following result:

BRIGHT, 24; DAWSON, 2; CHASE, 6; FOOT, 2; PARDEE, 1.

Mr. BRIGHT was then declared elected, and was escorted to the Chair by Messrs. JOHNS and SHIELDS. Upon taking it he returned his thanks to the Senate for the honor it had conferred upon him.

Resolutions, directing that the President and the House of Representatives be informed of the election of Mr. BRIGHT, were then adopted.

Mr. WELLER offered a resolution requesting the President to communicate copies of the instructions and correspondence between the Departments and Major-General WOOL, Commander of the Army on the Pacific Coast, respecting the operations of that division. Agreed to.

Mr. SEWARD offered a resolution for the election of Chaplains, which was laid over.

Mr. DODGE gave notice of a bill to continue improvements at Dunleith River Rapids.

Mr. BELL offered a resolution, inquiring into the expediency of constructing a Marine Hospital at Burlington, Vt.

Mr. CASS gave notice of a bill for the construction of a railroad through the Saint Clair Flats.

Mr. SEWARD moved to continue the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad bill. Agreed to.

Two Clerks were then authorized for the present Committees, and immediately afterwards the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The Speaker announced the Standing Committees. No changes from the last session, other than the supply of vacancies.

The Speaker laid before the House the Annual Report of the Secretary of State on Finances. Ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. LETCHER, Cole's Patent Committee, appointed last Winter, continues in force.

Mr. PHILLIPS offered resolutions instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to bring in a bill reducing the duty on railroad iron, or allowing credit on the same.

Mr. JONES, of Tenn., moved it to be laid on the table. Carried—97 against 41.

Mr. LAUMAN introduced a bill extending the time for the California Board of Land Commissioners to transact their business.

Mr. TAYLOR, of Tenn., gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to modify or repeal the Sub-treasury law.

Mr. SOLLERS gave notice of a bill to prevent the employment of persons of foreign birth in the Army and Navy. Also, to prevent the emigration to this country of foreign paupers and convicts, and to increase the revenues of the Government.

Various bills were introduced and resolutions of inquiry adopted.

THE CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN MINISTERS AT OSTEND.

Mr. SOLLERS's offered a resolution, calling on the President, if not incompatible with public interest, to inform the House what was the object or objects of the meeting or conference of American Ministers at Ostend, and whether it was held in obedience to the instructions of the Secretary of State, and what was the result of said conference.

Mr. SOLLERS said, in offering this resolution, he had not the slightest desire of finding fault with the Administration or our Ministers abroad. If he were even inclined to strike a blow at the Administration, it was not in the present moment of its weakness and helplessness; although he had no love or admiration for it, he still was full of manly compassion.—[Laughter.] There was almost general curiosity from one end of the country to the other to know for what purpose the Ministers met. It would be conceded it was almost an unprecedented movement—no such meeting had ever been held. When the peculiar character of him who is said to be at the bottom of the meeting is considered, when it is understood our Minister to Madrid was the man who called this meeting, there is just and well-founded suspicion not only as to the propriety, but as to the dangerous character, of that conference. It may be thought this movement, and for its object schemes of filibustering and territorial aggrandizement so colossal as to create new discord. He trusted this was not the object for which the ministers met, and hoped that the conference was for some pure and patriotic motives. *Give us light!* Would the friends of the Administration withhold that which the House has a right to demand? The day for court intrigues has gone by. The people want to know what they, in whose confidence has been placed by Government, have done. Hence he had offered the resolution.

Mr. BAYLEY regretted his friend from Maryland interrupted the reception so early in the session. He thought it was premature. He did not know the feeling in that Conference to shame the country, if such a meeting had taken place; on the contrary, considering affairs at present in Europe and the unsettled condition of every nation on earth, he was surprised there should be any exception to such a Conference. With the exception of France and England, there is no country in which there is not some disturbance in Foreign Affairs. Prosperous and successful as we have been, our foreign horizon is not entirely without clouds. The gentleman from Maryland said, "that the meeting at Ostend was unprecedented." Now, although the gentleman was undoubtedly right in his remark, he yet was not so, considering the special circumstances existing our representatives might not. It is not all unusual for Ministers themselves to confer with one another by written communications; in fact, it is part of their instructions to do so. It was their duty, constantly to keep one another advised of the proceedings at the courts to which they are respectively accredited. If they are required to report to written communications, what impropriety could there be in meeting at some convenient place to talk matters over and exchange views with that freedom which is more easily indulged in conversation than in formal written communications? He regretted the resolution was premature; but was not prepared to say whether the House could safely pass it or not, but he would say with war the character of the President's message, it ought to dismiss gentlemen of any disquiet on the management of our foreign affairs. He thought the Message conservative, and felt proud because being personally a conservative in our foreign affairs he could cordially coincide in the President's views. He thought the Committee of Foreign Affairs had not been given evidence of moderation at any rate, and he hoped his friend would treat that Committee with the resolution. He moved it be so referred.

Mr. WENTWORTH, of Illinois, said that when the resolution was introduced yesterday he voted against it because he thought it premature, the House not having then heard the President's Message, which they had a right to suppose would give a fair exposition of our foreign affairs. With the gentleman from Virginia, he considered the Message; so far as the foreign policy of the Executive is concerned, to be conservative, and just such a one as the Whigs ought to approve, and which he was glad to know the Democratic supports of it only remained for the House, with the Democratic party, to act up to what the President approves. The President has made his proclamation to all. It is right, and the country will sustain him. Were the President's election to come off to-morrow, with all the issues which prevail, the man adopting any other foreign policy could not be sustained. We hear rumors of our Ministers abroad. We see men writing addresses and appeals, expounding what should and what should not be done. He did not know whether these documents are true or false, but for the credit of his country, he hoped they were forgeries. It is the duty of the President to inquire whether they are or not.

It is presumable these documents are forgeries, and that all we hear is false, as the credit of Government requires it should be. He hoped if the foreign ministers, after seeing the President's Message, differ from him, they will come home, and leave foreign affairs alone. If they believe with the President, he hoped they would try to strengthen themselves with foreign Governments, in order to preserve, with him, honorable and pacific relations. He desired the reference of the resolution as proposed.

Mr. GRAY remarked that this was a mere resolution of inquiry, and did not require the President to communicate anything detrimental to the public interest. There is great anxiety to know something of the origin and results of the conference at Ostend. The House could hear the resolution without reflecting on the Committee of Foreign Affairs. The country ought to have the facts. We have seen certain intimations in England. The present disapprove of the filibustering articles which they say are published in foreign countries by men sent thither in diplomatic capacities by the Administration. Our Minister to Madrid, among others, is accused of filibustering. He did not know whether or not these charges are true, or whether all that is published is true, but he could see no objection to giving the information called for by the resolution, which is couched in such guarded terms. It leaves the President discretionary power to communicate it. The gentlemen from Virginia and Illinois say the resolution is premature; but if they know the facts, they ought to consent to the passage of the resolution in order that other members of the House may be made acquainted with them.

Mr. HAYS—(interrupting)—I pledge my word of honor I don't know that such a conference has taken place, or if so, what they did, or who instructed them what to do.

Mr. WENTWORTH explained. He meant that the instructions of the resolution, before the President's message was read, was premature.

Mr. GRAY—(resuming)—But the President's Message has now been read, and I do not think it premature to have the information as soon as possible. I am opposed to the reference.

Mr. WASHBURN of Me., thought the resolution such as should be at once adopted by the House. Notwithstanding what was said to the gentleman from Virginia, the meeting at Ostend was unprecedented as fact and in spirit. When, before, in our history has there been a conference of Ministers with such a parade and flourish of trumpets, and some of those Ministers foreigners by birth. The country ought to know the object of the meeting, and the result of it. They have a right to know. If Ministers have been doing anything wrong, the Representatives of the people should unequivocally protest against their conduct.

Mr. HILLIARD was of opinion that the information sought by the resolution should be given to the country, in this republic there is no necessity for keeping secret transactions of this character. Public attention has been directed to this conference, and inquiry is made every where as to its object and results. The House is the proper tribunal to call for the information in an official shape so that it may command respect.

Mr. PHILLIPS said they should only act when they had something substantial to act upon. Who has said that the President or any other officer of the Government over directed such a meeting of our Ministers as assumed? It was not competent for either the dignity of the House to offer such a resolution. It never idle rumors and pieces of newspaper gossip to control our every movement. We ought not to fix upon false lights of inquiry as leave another such sea voyage. There is no evidence that the meeting has resulted in anything, if any meeting has at all taken place.

Mr. GRAY (interrupting) asked if such a meeting had been held and ratified by the Administration, ought not the House to know it? How can they know, but by calling for the information?

Mr. PHILLIPS remarked that other steps might have something more than rumors before they are called

Mr. BAYLEY requested that if this referred, the Committee of Foreign Affairs would have the power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. LETCHER replied that he supposed not. He thought the House had no more trust or discretion to men "not natives nor to the manner born" than the Committee of Foreign Affairs. He would advise the gentleman of Maine to have that picture (pointing to the portraits of General LAFAYETTE) removed from that hall. He regretted to hear in this House of Representatives the remotest censure cast on foreigners. He only wished to know the object of the meeting.

Mr. WENTWORTH said he would not have voted against the resolution if he had known there was no necessity for the reference of Ministers to Ostend. He thought the character of the President forbade any such conference. He thought Mr. BUCHANAN would be the last man to be influenced by any foreign power. If Ministers have been doing anything wrong, the Representatives of the people should unequivocally protest against their conduct.

Mr. HILLIARD was of opinion that the information sought by the resolution should be given to the country, in this republic there is no necessity for keeping secret transactions of this character. Public attention has been directed to this conference, and inquiry is made every where as to its object and results. The House is the proper tribunal to call for the information in an official shape so that it may command respect.

Mr. PHILLIPS said they should only act when they had something substantial to act upon. Who has said that the President or any other officer of the Government ever directed such a meeting of our Ministers at Ostend? It was not competent for either the dignity of the House to offer such a resolution. It never idle rumors and pieces of newspaper gossip to control our every movement. We ought not to fix upon false lights of inquiry as leave another such sea voyage. There is no evidence that the meeting has resulted in anything, if any meeting has at all taken place.

Mr. GRAY (interrupting) asked if such a meeting had been held and ratified by the Administration, ought not the House to know it? How can they know, but by calling for the information?

Mr. PHILLIPS remarked that other steps might have something more than rumors before they are called

Mr. BAYLEY requested that if this referred, the Committee of Foreign Affairs would have the power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. LETCHER replied that he supposed not. He thought the House had no more trust or discretion to men "not natives nor to the manner born" than the Committee of Foreign Affairs. He would advise the gentleman of Maine to have that picture (pointing to the portraits of General LAFAYETTE) removed from that hall. He regretted to hear in this House of Representatives the remotest censure cast on foreigners. He only wished to know the object of the meeting.

Mr. WENTWORTH said he would not have voted against the resolution if he had known there was no necessity for the reference of Ministers to Ostend. He thought the character of the President forbade any such conference. He thought Mr. BUCHANAN would be the last man to be influenced by any foreign power. If Ministers have been doing anything wrong, the Representatives of the people should unequivocally protest against their conduct.

Mr. TAYLOR, of Ohio, coincided with Mr. GRAY in reference to the resolution. It was not competent to call for this information. He could not see any reason of birth ought to be cast abroad to represent us in a foreign capacity.

Mr. BAYLEY said this caused in extreme cases, the House should not make such a call as this. It was a most important question for the country to know what was done at Ostend. If Ministers have been doing anything wrong, he would be well if some less serious censure were sent abroad. Our country should be represented by natives. He was prepared to go one step further and adopt the sentiment of JEFFERSON, that even the native born ought not to be let abroad too long, for they imbibe foreign views, forgetting even their native country.

Mr. JONES, (Tenn.,) suggested that Mr. BAYLEY modify his motion to refer the resolution of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, with instructions to inquire whether or not the meeting of American Ministers was not for the purpose of organizing a "Know-Nothing" Lodge in Europe. [Laughter.]

Mr. BAYLEY declined, that his friend might instruct him. If the resolution should be referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, they would try to ascertain whether something may not be said on this floor to satisfy the curiosity of gentlemen without the necessity of a call on the President.

The vote on referring the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was negatived—83 in favor, and 98 against it.

Pending the question on the resolution, the House adjourned.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The *Star* says that SIMON CAMERON has made peace with the Buchanan interest in Pennsylvania, and that he will most probably receive their support for the office of Senator from that State.

Lecture of Mr. Benson on the Fusible Metal.

BALTIMORE, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Hon. THOMAS H. BENTON delivered a lecture before the Maryland Institute this evening. There was an immense audience in attendance to hear him. His subject was Western Geography with reference to its adaptation to the settlement and construction of the Pacific Railroad.

The Governor Elect at Albany—Reception of the Buffalo Mail Train—Fire, &c.

ALBANY, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

MYRON H. CLARK, the Governor elect, arrived here this morning, and is now stopping at the Delavan House.

The Buffalo Mail Train, due here at 11 o'clock last night, did not arrive until 8 o'clock this afternoon.

The store of S. W. KING, on Second-street, in this city, was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss $10,000; Insurance $4,500—part of which is in the Long Island Co.

Know-Nothing Election at Cambridge—Effects of the Gale at New-Bedford, Salem, Newburyport, &c.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Z. S. RICHARDS, the Know-Nothing candidate for Mayor at Cambridge, was elected yesterday.

The gale of Sunday night blew down two new houses at Nahant.

At New-Bedford and the Vineyard the storm was accompanied with heavy thunder and vivid lightning.

Nearly all the shipping in the harbor of Newburyport received damage from the gale.

The President's Message reached Boston at 1½ o'clock this morning.

Know-Nothing Election.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The whole Know-Nothing ticket was elected in Lawrence, Mass., yesterday. ELIHAH WARREN was their candidate for Mayor.

The Anthony Burns Rescue Case.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Rev. F. W. HIGGINSON and MARTIN BROWNELL, Esq., both of Worcester, were to-day held in bonds of $1,500 each, on charge of being implicated in the attempted rescue of the fugitive ANTHONY BURNS.

Election of a Delegate to Congress from Nebraska.

LOUISVILLE, Tuesday, Dec. 5.

The St. Louis *Republican* says that WHITFIELD, the Pro-Slavery candidate, is elected a delegate to Congress from KANSAS by a large majority.

Appointment of a Government Official to Canada.

MONTREAL, Monday, Dec. 4.

Viscount BURY EN, Earl of Albemarle, has received the appointment of Civil Secretary and Superintendent General of Indian Affairs of Canada, in room of LIEUTENANT OLDFIELD, who has resigned his appointment and who returns to England with Lord ELGIN.

Philadelphia Stock Market.

PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday, Dec 5.

MONEY is unchanged. STOCKS are steady. We quote Reading at 33¾; Morris Canal at 11; Long Island Railroad at 11½; Pennsylvania 6ens 70¾; Pennsylvania Railroad 41.

LONG ISLAND.

Fire in Southold—Loss About $12,000.

Yesterday afternoon about 1 o'clock a fire broke out in the extensive paint-and-oil factory of THOMAS & JAMES GREEN, in Bushwick, foot of Ewen-street. The fire originated in the japanning building, from what cause is unknown, and in a few minutes the buildings were enveloped in flames.

The firemen from Bushwick, Williamsburgh and Brooklyn, were at work as early as possible, but the buildings being composed of wood were entirely consumed, together with nearly all of the stock and machinery. Loss on the buildings about $5,000; machinery $6,000; stock about $5,000. Partially insured in the Fulton Hall and other companies.

NEW JERSEY

The Boom Trombone.

We publish under our telegraphic head, the correspondence of our Minister at Paris and the French Government, concerning the extension of Mr. Soule from France. It contains the statement already given in the DAILY TIMES concerning the progress and final settlement of this difficulty. Mr. Mason's letter to the French Secretary is explicit and firm, and the explanations of the latter are full and satisfactory. The correspondence will be read with general interest.

We publish to-day the letter of Mr. Secretary Dix, declining the nomination for Governor tendered him by the Democratic Convention. The reasons which he assigns for declining are entirely satisfactory, and will be appreciated by his friends throughout the State. We regret that he has seen fit to withhold his name from the list of candidates, as we are satisfied that he would have received a very large vote, and would have given a strength to the ticket which it will now be difficult to obtain.

Colored Seamen in South Carolina Ports.

The Charleston *News* of the 26th ult. has the following, which comes very near being sensible:

"Among the modifications of our slavery laws which are suggested by necessity, it is regarded to consolidation and our own character, to relieve that providing for the imprisonment of colored seamen, arising in Christmas times, etc. This statute would long since have been modified, we believe, but for the misfortune of Mr. HAYNE, who was the original draftsman of the law. A vessel lately arrived, and reports several vessels ashore on Lake Quinby. Her crew are said to have escaped with great difficulty, though the exertions of one of their number, who swam ashore with a line. A vessel lost—their only hope was to reach land. Six or ten lives, lately by the merciless waters of Cedar Island. She is, we hear, lying by the stern, with her main mast gone, and her cargo of lime. Not lives have been lost, though many of the crew are said to have escaped with great difficulty. It is stated to have sailed for a port above Wilmington. Her crew are now detained for the action of the Legislature, and reports several vessels ashore on Lake Quinby.

A severe gale, accompanied with snow, has been raging here for the past two days, and much anxiety is felt for the safety of vessels which cleared from this port yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, and were driven violently against a dock on Cape Fear river, opposite Castle Hill, (seen up.

The steamer *Osceola*, Captain Watson, left this morning for Wilmington, with sundries.

The schooner *Osceola*, Captain Howard, arrived this morning from Wilmington, with sundries consigned to Wm. Watson.

The schooner *Oxford*—The Steamer *Osceola* Arrives.

WILMINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The schooner *Oxford*, with sundries consigned to order, arrived this morning.

The steamer *Osceola*, Captain Watson, arrived this morning from Fayetteville, with sundries consigned to Wm. Watson.

We have received no mail this morning from Charleston, the gale having prevented the boat on the Pocotaligo from running.

The weather here is clear, but a gale of wind is prevailing all seaward.

Loss of the Schooner Oxford

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY PRESENTS

DRY GOODS.

CLOAKS—CLOAKS.

FARO PLAYING CARDS.

HOUSES, &c. WANTED.

WANTED.

PERSONAL.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF APPEALS.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM—Dec. 4.

MARINE COURT.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT—Dec. 4.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—Dec. 4.

MARKET REPORTS.

FINE ARTS.

DANCING.

INSTRUCTION.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

FURNITURE.

MEDICAL.

TO LET.

DIVIDENDS.

DIVIDEND.—The Board of Directors of the NEW-YORK FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY have this day declared a Dividend of Three per cent. on the Capital Stock of the Company, payable on demand.

JAMES M. OTIS, Secretary.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 23, 1854.

DIVIDEND.—The Board of Directors of the HOWARD INSURANCE COMPANY have this day declared a Dividend of Three per cent. on the Capital Stock of the Company, payable on demand.

HENRY A. OAKLEY, Secretary.

NEW-YORK, Nov. 23, 1854.

DIVIDEND.—The Board of Directors of the NORTH AMERICAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY have this day declared a Dividend of Three per cent. on the Capital Stock of the Company, payable on demand.

R. V. HOPPER

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

BUSINESS CHANCES.

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.